

Killed in action

More details released in soldier's death during Niger battle. — National, 3A



Playoff hopes alive

Cowboys' go-ahead field goal seals deal over Raiders. — Sports, 1C

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In the news

■ **Francois Gabart** broke the speed record set last year by a fellow Frenchman for sailing around the world alone, ending his 42-day, 16-hour journey near Ouessant island off France's western coast, according to organizers of the trip.

■ **Lauren Price**, 31, and Amy Laker, 29, were allowed to skip a waiting period and get married ahead of the anticipated Jan. 9 start of same-sex weddings in Australia because their families had traveled to Sydney from overseas to attend what was to have been their commitment ceremony.

■ **Jasen Dixon**, whose "zombie Nativity" scene in Sycamore Township, Ohio, has faced vandalism and claims of zoning violations in past years, said this will be the last year he'll put up the display featuring zombie Mary and zombie baby Jesus.

■ **Brandon Ramirez**, a 27-year-old Houston firefighter, was charged with sexually assaulting a child, with authorities saying he met a teenage girl online, sent sexually explicit photos and videos of himself to her over weeks, and then met her in person for a "sexual encounter."

■ **Keith Laham**, co-founder of the Boston-based Beantown Greentown cannabis club and advocacy group, said the group, which rolled a 100-foot-long joint during an exhibition of pro-marijuana vendors and supporters, hopes people will join and "become part of a bigger community."

■ **Sgt. Stephen Wheelles** of the Indiana State Police said a dog was the only survivor of a single-engine Cessna plane that crashed near Oldenburg, about 40 miles northwest of Cincinnati, killing three people and another dog on board.

■ **Celine Bookin**, a political science major at the University of California, Berkeley, founded the Berkeley Conservative Society and invited a college Democratic group to take on her group in a series of debates to address what she saw as a lack of political dialogue after a series of violent protests.

■ **Sen. Cory Booker**, a New Jersey Democrat and former Newark mayor, is getting extra security at his home from Newark police, Mayor Ras Baraka said, after the department was notified by U.S. Capitol police of a threat on Booker's life.

■ **Cole Hamels**, a pitcher for the Texas Rangers baseball team, and his wife, Heidi, donated a 32,000-square-foot mansion and 100 acres near Missouri's Table Rock Lake to Camp Barnabas, a charity that provides camps for children with special needs and chronic illnesses and for their siblings.

Chileans pick their president



AP/ESTEBAN FELIX

Poll workers sport costumes Sunday in Santiago, Chile, during the country's presidential runoff election. Sen. Alejandro Guillier conceded the race Sunday night as results showed his opponent, former President Sebastian Pinera, holding a sizable lead.

GOP sets busy week for tax, spending bills

COMPILED BY DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF FROM WIRE REPORTS
WASHINGTON — Republicans in Congress return to work today facing a packed agenda with little time to enact it, as party leaders aim to quickly pass their tax plan and then cut a budget deal with Democrats before the end of Friday to avert a government shutdown.

The Republicans' deadline on the tax bill is self-imposed. GOP lawmakers have for months been racing to meet President Donald Trump's demand that they send him tax legislation before Christ-

mas — a timeline that gained new urgency when Alabama Democrat Doug Jones won the Senate seat currently occupied by Republican Luther Strange.

GOP leaders aim to hold tax votes early in the week before moving to the budget bill. They need Democrats' help to pass the budget measure through the Senate but have thus far made little progress in bringing them aboard amid disagreements over spending levels, protection from deportation for certain illegal immigrants, and a health insurance program for children from low-income

families.

Republicans have grown more confident about the outcome of the tax votes after Sens. Marco Rubio of Florida and Bob Corker of Tennessee pledged their support Friday. The two Republicans would give the GOP enough Senate votes to pass the legislation, even as Sen. John McCain, who is battling an aggressive form of brain cancer, returned to Arizona on Sunday and is not expected to vote on the final bill.

Trump told reporters that he had spoken to McCain's wife, Cindy, after her husband's death. See **TAXES**, Page 2A

Fighting a wildfire



AP/Santa Barbara County Fire Department/MIKE ELIASON

A Sikorsky S-64 Skycrane on Sunday drops water on hot spots along a hillside in Santa Barbara, Calif. One of the largest wildfires in California's history continued to spread Sunday, but fire officials said aggressive measures have saved hundreds of homes. Article, 3A

Bombs target Pakistani church

ISIS claims suicide attack that killed 9 people, injured 57

COMPILED BY DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF FROM WIRE REPORTS
QUETTA, Pakistan — At least nine people were killed and more than 50 others wounded when two suicide bombers struck a church in Pakistan on Sunday, authorities said, in the first attack on a church claimed by the

country's Islamic State militant group affiliate. One attacker detonated an explosives-laden vest at an entrance to the church's main hall. A second attacker's vest failed to detonate and he was killed by security forces, according to police and government officials. Nearly 400 worshippers

were gathered inside Bethel Memorial Methodist Church for early morning prayers. Photos from the scene showed debris and pools of blood near the pulpit. Baluchistan Police Chief Moazzam Ansari praised the response of security forces guarding the church, saying See **PAKISTAN**, Page 8A

CIA's tip draws Putin's thanks

Attack foiled, he tells Trump

COMPILED BY DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF FROM WIRE REPORTS
MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday phoned President Donald Trump to thank him for a tip from the CIA that thwarted a terrorist attack being planned in St. Petersburg.

The unusual call — countries share intelligence all the time, but presidents rarely publicly thank one another for it — was confirmed by White House spokesman Sarah Huckabee Sanders.

Putin told Trump that the information provided by the CIA allowed Russian law enforcement agencies to track down and detain a group of suspects who were planning to bomb the centrally located Kazan Cathedral and other crowded parts of Russia's second-largest city.

"Based on the information the United States provided,

Russian authorities were able to capture the terrorists just prior to an attack that could have killed large numbers of people," the White House said in its readout of the call.

"President Trump appreciated the call and told President Putin that he and the entire United States intelligence community were pleased to have helped save so many lives," the White House said in its statement. "President Trump stressed the importance of intelligence cooperation to defeat terrorists wherever they may be. Both leaders agreed that this serves as an example of the positive things that can occur when our countries work together."

It was the two presidents' second conversation since Thursday, when they spoke after Putin's annual four-hour televised news address. See **PUTIN**, Page 4A

Opioid case's end raised ire in DEA

Ex-officials: Firm's penalty too light

LENNY BERNSTEIN AND SCOTT HIGHAM THE WASHINGTON POST
WASHINGTON — After two years of painstaking investigation, David Schiller and the rest of the Drug Enforcement Administration team he supervised were ready to move on the biggest opioid distribution case

in U.S. history. The team, based out of the DEA's Denver field division, had been examining the operations of the nation's largest drug company, McKesson Corp. By 2014, investigators said they could show that the company had failed to report suspicious orders involving See **OPIOID**, Page 4A

Marker program aims to tell tales of the state

Agency, groups to split signs' expense

MICHAEL R. WICKLINE ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE
Martha Ellen Talbot, an owner of the Marlsgate Plantation in Scott, hopes to get a sign on U.S. 165 to draw more attention to the historic mansion about 14 miles southeast of Little Rock.

So she plans to apply through a new state Department of Arkansas Heritage program to create a historical marker for the Greek Revival mansion.

"I am certain that a lot of people don't know about it," Talbot said Friday of the Arkansas Historical Marker Program. The new program will add to the hundreds of markers already scattered around Arkansas.

Ground was broken on Marlsgate in 1888, and it was completed in 1904, she noted. At one time, the house was the nerve center for a farming operation that totaled 7,000 acres and supported 100 families, many of them tenants who lived on the surrounding property. The mansion now serves as a location for weddings and other events.

Under the Department of Arkansas Heritage program, a marker must commemorate a historic person, place or event, and significance must have been attained at least 50 years ago. The markers are required to be sponsored by civic groups and organizations, such as chambers of commerce, his-

See **MARKER**, Page 5A

Birthday wishes



AP/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

Pope Francis blows out a candle Sunday as he celebrates his 81st birthday during an audience with children at the Vatican.

WEATHER

LITTLE ROCK
Today Partly sunny. Not as cool.
High 64. South winds 5 mph.
Tonight Mostly cloudy. A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms.
Low 51. South winds 5 mph.



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